

LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

San Francisco, February 28th, per S. S. Australia.

AMERICA.

General Butler says the fisheries treaty is a surrender to the British.

Charles Richard, a once famous singer, died in New York on February 27th.

A strike has caused a suspension of business on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad.

Cadet W. C. Davis has been arrested at West Point for hitting an instructor with a hot potato.

Burgess has designed four yachts of different models, but all measuring forty feet on the water line.

Arrangements are making for one hundred families from Illinois to colonize in Ventura county, Cal.

Ex-Senator Tabor and W. T. Carleton were arrested at Denver for giving a sacred concert on Sunday.

An appropriation of \$250,000 is urged on the House Harbors and Rivers Committee for the improvement of Humboldt Bay.

A resolution is before Congress for extending the President's term to April 30, 1889, and changing the date of the meeting of Congress.

The Dominion Government is going ahead with proceedings against American fishing vessels libeled for buying bait in Canada waters.

Thos. Nast, late cartoonist of *Harper's Weekly*, is giving entertaining lectures in San Francisco. Robt. J. Burdette, humorist, is also there.

Democrats are charged with filibustering to defeat public buildings bills in the House. San Francisco and Portland may thus be kept out of their buildings.

The schooner Corenet, that defeated the Dauntless in the trans-Atlantic race last year, is preparing at New York for a voyage round Cape Horn to San Francisco.

The trial of Dimmig for the murder of Benhayon is still proceeding at San Francisco. Evidence was given of poison found in deceased's stomach and on his clothing.

There being no information in the New York Collector's Office to go by, the Federal House Committee on Manufactures will have to itself investigate the Sugar Trust.

Col. B. C. Cash, the South Carolina duelist who killed Col. Shannon in a duel in 1880, is dead. He was buried beside his son, who was killed by a Marshal while resisting arrest.

Signal Service officer Greeley, in his report on the rainfall west of the Rocky Mountains, intimates that the condition of that country will force upon Congress the question of irrigation.

Dr. Bredmeyer has been fasting thirteen days in jail at Salt Lake, and says he will keep it up till he dies if his wife, for beating whom he is imprisoned, does not withdraw her divorce case.

In 1886 the Chinese arriving in California numbered 6,714 and departures of that nationality were 12,267, and 1887 there arrived 11,572 and departed 9,919. These figures show a net decrease of 3,900 Chinese the last two years, but do not include clandestine arrivals over the British Columbian and Mexican borders.

James D. Lick, heir apparent of the founder of the Lick Observatory, has instituted a suit for an accounting against 28 partners of his late father in a Santa Barbara colonization scheme. The case involves the title to 18,000 acres of the best land in Santa Barbara county, and, if Lick is successful, he will get \$3,000,000 in money.

Representative Morrow introduced a resolution in the House, calling upon the President to transmit to Congress information as to what treaty negotiations have been conducted with the Chinese Minister in relation to the total exclusion of Chinese. Morrow's action is due to a suspicion that no such treaty is in existence, but that rumors regarding it were floated to prevent fresh legislation for exclusion of Chinese.

The Standard Oil Trust is being investigated by the New York Senate Trust Investigating Committee. F. D. Rockefeller was examined February 27th, giving interesting figures of the huge monopoly. The Standard Oil Company, of which he is President, has a capital of \$3,500,000. He is a member of the Standard Oil Trust, which is not incorporated but based upon a written agreement. He asked that the contents of the agreement produced be kept from the press, as it contained private matter. From five to ten companies—be declined to give the exact number—had entered the Trust. The capital is \$90,000,000. The oil product of the Company is about 27,000,000 barrels annually, and three-fourths of this is controlled by the Trust. Certificates are worth \$165, par value \$100. In 1887 the shareholders received 20 per cent. more stock, and in addition a dividend of 10 per cent. Average dividends have been 9 per cent. per annum. Twenty million dollars have been added to the \$70,000,000 with which the Trust started, and that had been given as stock dividends in addition to the regular dividends. The number of refineries had been increasing constantly. The Trust was doing nothing to prevent production. It owns the stock of the small wells whose production is 200 barrels a day, while the production is 10,000 barrels a day. The Trust owns the stock of the pipe lines, one of which brings oil to the seaboard through tubes. About \$30,

sents the plant of the pipe lines. Rockefeller said the Trust had but little to do with producing oil. Its business is almost entirely in refining and transporting. The Company employs 25,000 men.

EUROPE.

M. Coquelin, a comic opera singer, goes from Paris to America.

The Spanish Senate has approved the bill establishing trial by jury.

Parnell says the present session of Parliament will probably be uneventful inasmuch as concerns Ireland.

Prince Ferdinand's birthday was publicly observed with much rejoicing at Philippopolis on February 27th.

The village of Valtorta, Italy, has been half buried by an avalanche. Many houses were wrecked, and 23 corpses were recovered from the ruins.

Sir James Ferguson, in the Commons, denied the statement of a Paris paper that England was negotiating with Turkey for Salonica and an island commanding the Dardanelles.

Russian garrisons on the Prussian frontier have been reinforced in the last fortnight by several brigades on a war footing. There are four cavalry regiments near Pincrow, which directly menace Cracow.

Postmaster-General Raikes informed Parliament that the Government had concluded a contract with the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company for the conveyance of Australian mails under time penalties.

The latest bulletin regarding the Crown Prince was that he had a good night. All the news from San Remo reaches the Emperor through Prince Bismarck. A special prayer service on behalf of the Prince was held February 26th at the Imperial Palace. Dr. Kausmaul shares in the opinion that there are cancerous cells in the matter expectorated by the Crown Prince. Dr. Mackenzie has declined to enter into anatomical details.

The great political sensation in England is a review of the whole Irish question by Gladstone in the *Contemporary Review*. Among the Liberal press that praises it highly, the *Daily News* calls it a masterpiece of persuasive reasoning, and says that a palpable hit is scored in every line. The *Chronicle* says the article will disappoint Gladstone's followers because it claims that home rule can only be settled by the co-operation of the two historic parties in British politics.

General News.

THE AMERICAN BABYLON SINKING.

At the Academy of Sciences, Columbia College, Feb. 20th, Professor D. S. Martin read a paper on the geology of New York and its environs. After showing in outline the formation of geiss with the forms of rock on Manhattan island, he traced the rock in its course to the north, and in course the trap rock on the New Jersey shore. Both show a trace of corrosion from the glacial period. Previous to that period, the lecturer continued, this island was a long, rocky promontory, stretching down to a plain occupied by the present site on New York bay. The rocks on the islands are higher than the Palisades now are, and the Palisades rose to a height of 700 feet. A river flowing from the center of New England passed through the bed of East river and united the bay with the Hudson, which flows into the ocean nearly one hundred miles further south. The corrosion and drift of the glacial period has changed the landscape, and the sinking of the plain has made the harbor of New York. The subsidence still continues, and along the New Jersey shore the sea is steadily climbing upon the cliffs. In 100 years the advance has been perceptible, and in 1,000 years it will be more so. Thus the metropolis of the western world may be seen approaching a period when it will find rest once more from its fever beneath the waters of the Atlantic.

THE AWFUL AVALANCHE.

Particulars have been received at Portland, Oregon, of a snowslide on the Upper Wenatchee, Washington Territory, resulting in the death of two persons. James Brisky lives near Wenatchee, and on the day of the fatal slide Mrs. Brisky, two small children and Rev. J. Biggs were in the house. Brisky himself was a short distance away chopping wood. While so engaged some men near by shouted out to him, pointing out at the same instant a mass of moving snow and trees. Brisky sprang forward, rushing toward the house. He was caught in the avalanche, buried to his knees and carried across the gulch, narrowly escaping a fearful death. The house was buried and swept some distance. Both Mrs. Brisky and Rev. Mr. Biggs were crushed to death in an instant. Strange to say, the children escaped without the slightest injuries, some timbers of the house being so crowded as to screen them. The snow was about ten feet deep. The bodies of the victims were recovered and the two children soon rescued.

ENGLAND SEIZES TERRITORY.

General A. de Silva, Consul in New York for the Republic of Venezuela, is in receipt of information that England within the last few days has taken possession, by armed force, of a most valuable portion of the territory of Venezuela, territory not in dispute between the two countries, and to which England has no claim, and in doing so has directly violated the Monroe Doctrine of the United States. General de Silva will call on the authorities at Washington for the prompt enforcement of the Monroe doctrine. The seizure was made through Governor Charles Bruce of Demerara. The territory seized in-

South America. De Silva says in it are fourteen mines, the average production of each of which is \$300,000 a year. De Silva claims that England has, in this seizure, violated the treaty of 1884 with Venezuela. He says that if the United States does not interfere, Venezuelans will fight for the territory.

ALLEGED LEGAL FRAUDS.

The criminal libel case against the proprietors of the *Mail* began at Stockton, Cal., February 20th, and would probably last a week. The libel consisted in the *Mail* demanding that August Munter, an attorney practicing at the local bar, be disbarred for having written a complaint and answer in the same case. E. S. Pillsbury was assisting the prosecution and Judge Terry and ex-Congressman Budd appeared for the defense. A sensation was created when the defense stated what they could prove, and declared that the records in probate cases since early days had been gone over and would disclose systematic fraud on the part of certain probate attorneys.

NEW STARS IN THE BANNER.

The Washington House Committee on Territories considered the question relating to the admission as States of Dakota, Montana, Washington and New Mexico. It was decided to formulate an omnibus enabling act for the four Territories, and the preparation of the bill was referred to a sub-committee consisting of Messrs. Springer, Mansur, Hayes, Struble and Symes. During the session of the Committee votes were taken upon Gifford's bill for the admission of South Dakota, and Baker's bill looking to the recognition of North Dakota as a State. The result in each case was unfavorable to the bill.

STATE OF CUBA.

Key West advices insist on the truth of former accounts from there of a bad state of affairs in Cuba. A Havana paper is quoted in the statement that from January 1st to February 10th there had been treated in the ambulance hospital of the city fifty-six persons who had been wounded with firearms, knives, etc., and that ten persons were murdered during the same time. A mail wagon in the country was stopped by six armed men, who killed the driver, robbed the mail and stole the team.

DAVITT ON PHILLIPS.

Michael Davitt has written a letter eulogizing Wendell Phillips. Davitt's estimate of Phillips is that no other name in American history embodies as fully the fundamental principles of the Declaration of Independence as does that of Wendell Phillips. His interpretation of the great truths of that immortal charter was not blunted by prejudices or narrowed by geographical boundaries. He preached liberty as a gospel for mankind, and not as a creed for a favored people or nation.

ROLLING WESTWARD.

A California excursion train of nineteen cars, containing eleven Pullman sleepers, running in two sections, left St. Louis with 400 people Feb. 16th, via the Iron Mountain route, and a second train of thirty cars, including twenty Pullman sleepers, in four sections, with 600 people, left Kansas City the next morning via the Missouri Pacific. These trains would join at Fort Worth, Texas, and from there be run in six sections, making the largest and longest train that has ever crossed the continent.

A VIVID CLIMATE.

Donald Fletcher, who has just been elected president of the Denver (Col.) Chamber of Commerce, reached that city nine years ago almost dead with consumption and with only \$5 in his pocket. He applied for a position as section hand on the Rio Grande Railroad, but was given a clerkship in the office of that company at a salary of \$75 a month. He is now one of the wealthiest men in Denver and enjoys robust health. His money was made in real estate.

SAMOAN AFFAIRS.

A Melbourne dispatch of February 20th states that the Germans have exiled from Apia two Samoan chiefs who were trying to excite the natives in favor of the deposed King Malietoa. One of the San Francisco papers has a lengthy interview with a gentleman, who describes Samoan affairs as being in a state of anarchy, the Germans ruling by superior naval force and other foreigners disputing German sovereignty.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The by elections in Manitoba have proved a great triumph for the new Liberal Ministry.

A Swiss and Italian syndicate has been formed which will advance to the Italian Government 50,000,000 francs to enable it to complete the Simplon railway tunnel and the railway line which will connect therewith.

The largest sale of real estate yet made in the vicinity of Santa Barbara, Cal., was on Feb. 18th, when the Buell ranch, twenty miles west of that city, of 8,000 acres, was sold to a Canadian colony for \$120,000.

The Oakland Y. M. C. A., of which Samuel T. Alexander is a Vice-President and Capt. Bray the General Secretary, will put up a building when \$50,000 is subscribed. An anonymous business man of Oakland has subscribed \$2,500, increasing subscriptions thus far to \$20,000.

Rev. J. C. Price (colored), President of the Livingston College, Salisbury, N. C., has received a letter informing him that the President has appointed him Minister Resident and Consul-General of the United States in Liberia. Price has not yet decided whether he will accept the offer or not.

OUR CURRENCY.

EDITOR HAWAIIAN:—The closing of an article on "Our National Currency" in the last *Pioneer Monthly* reads: "We trust that the whole subject of our national currency will receive the attention of the Government, and that some plan may be adopted to secure the best and safest currency adapted to the necessities of our country and retain to the public treasury whatever profit may arise from it."

The above suggestion would be a wise course for governments to pursue, as nothing but the morals of man so badly wants reforming as the national currencies of the world.

Although a currency supply is so essential to the healthy development and business prosperity of all countries, Governments seem to treat the matter lightly as though it was of but little importance, and the comforts and happiness of the people were not depending upon it.

Yet when seriously considered its magnitude is seen to be so great that it would justify the Government of this Kingdom—as small as it is—in appointing a committee of able men to examine systems of currency and search for a system of national currency that would work without the evils inherent in all systems now in use. A reward should be offered large enough to engage the attention of the ablest minds of the age, and the offer should be worded about as follows:

"A reward of dollars will be paid by the Hawaiian Government to any person or persons who will produce a practical system for a national currency adapted to the use of the Government and people of this Kingdom."

"The system must embody the following advantages, if adopted:—

"First—The currency coined and issued under the system must be regulated to a 'gold standard.'"

"Second—Under the system, gold, silver and paper must be the material out of which the currency shall be made."

"Third—Every dollar in circulation must be worth 100 cents for all purposes of domestic exchange—none below or above par."

"Fourth—The system must be applicable to the currency requirements of this Kingdom, and co-existent with the life of the State."

"Fifth—The profits must go to the public treasury."

"Sixth—The circulation of this currency must be such as to increase and decrease in quantity, so as to conform to industrial demand—never a surplus or deficiency."

This Government could afford to pay largely for a system of currency that would produce the above results, and great nations like the United States or Great Britain could pay scores of thousands for such a system, and yet make tens of millions out of it yearly, and their people would be still more largely benefited than the Government itself. It must be conceded that such a system is not now, or never has been used among the nations, and to say that it can't be produced is to doubt or limit the powers of the human mind. It is simply a matter of invention, like producing a new machine or a plan for a costly or an important building.

It will no doubt require a concentrated, intelligent, penetrating, deep thought to produce such a system. No surface examination will ever do it, as its foundation must be laid deep and solid, so as not to be shaken by money panics or financial gales, that shake if they do not destroy all finance and currency systems now used. It can be produced and become a civilizing agent of great power among men. Our present systems—if they are entitled to that name—belong to past ages. There has been no improvement in Government finance and currency for several generations.

JOHN M. HORNER.
Hamakua, March 8th.

A Lady's Experience of Dakota's Snow-storms.

"I arrived here on the 20th in an awful blizzard, which began shortly after we left Milwaukee. The cold was so intense that the carriage windows were frozen over, and nothing could be seen of the surrounding country. At one station I got out to get some hot coffee, but, cold and hungry as I was, I preferred to suffer these rather than face the wind for a couple of hundred yards. We landed here in such a storm as you could not picture to yourself, try ever so hard. The next train that came was snowed up, so it was a good thing we got in time. It has been a constant blizzard ever since. We were snowed up with six feet of snow in front and eight at the back, and in some places there are ten. How would you like that? We have to make a hole through the heap each time we want to get out. The roof and walls of our bed rooms are covered every morning with a sheet of ice, and I sweep two dust pansful of snow off the walls of each room every morning. When I get up in the morning my feet stick to the quilt lying above us—in fact, everything one touches sticks to one's hands. The water pail freezes solid. Just fancy having half an ox in the house without being able to get a bit of it; it cannot be cut, even with a saw. It is simply a solid piece of ice. The summer kitchen had four feet of snow this morning which had blown through the crevices. It is so fine that it sifts through everything. Monday, 2d.—This is a lovely day, with the sky clear and blue, and with light so perfect that we could do housework until six o'clock. We have got dry out at back but not in front. People are walking over snow banks as they would over hills at home, and the boys are having toboggan slides everywhere. No train in since Thursday. I think I will like the country and the people, who are very kind, but not the awful cold."

Right You are, Rev. Mr. T.

If any people in all the world ought to have attractive entombment, they are the journalists. The more fatiguing the pilgrimage the more

needful that the pilgrim have a pleasant wayside inn for the night. To 99 out of 100 newspaper men life is a drudge, a grind, an exhaustion and an injustice. And yet, when the community can get their papers one cent cheaper—which means harder times for those who make the newspaper—there is a paroxysm of frantic delight, and the joy of that one cent saved is like that of Columbus at the discovery of America.—[Talmage.]

The Panama Canal.

The *Economiste Francaise* recently contained an article concerning De Lesseps's Panama Canal estimates on the authority of Paul Leroy Beaulieu. He says the lowest figure that would pay interest charges and expenses and allow 5 per cent. on the stock would be 215,000,000 francs per year; that in 1886 the Suez Canal, seventeen years after it was opened, had total receipts of less than 60,000,000 francs, and, therefore, it is ridiculous to claim that the Panama Canal could be reasonably expected to pay, or possibly could pay 200,000,000 francs. He estimates that the Pacific coast could furnish tonnage approximately of 2,500,000 and that the commerce of Asia and China would add 500,000 tons. He estimates the probable income from the lock-canal between 30,000,000 and 35,000,000 francs. He thinks it possible, however, by heroic reduction in expenses that the lock-canal could be completed for 1,100,000,000 francs, and proposes as part of the scheme that America, England, Germany and France shall provide a collective guaranty of 3 per cent. interest for the money yet to be borrowed. The amount to be guaranteed would be from 30,000,000 to 35,000,000 francs.

The Wedding of the Atlantic and Pacific.

There is no doubt that M. de Lesseps has met with tremendous obstacles in every shape and form during the last seven years, and certainly he has been deceived as to the amount estimated on the construction of the canal; but in spite of all these impediments he has stuck to his guns to the last gasp, and will do so as he did at Suez. The actual work on the canal amounts to the following:—The section from Colon to Bohio, 12 miles, is cut; from Bohio to Matachin will be completed next year; the section from Watachin to Paraiso, including the Kut of Culibria, has been entrusted to M. Eiffel (the tower engineer), to hand it over, with locks, for February, 1890; from Paraiso to Rio Grande will be terminated next year in June. Let the enemies of the great and useful work rest assured that it is not tottering yet, and that M. de Lesseps will assist before he closes his marvelous career at the birth of his great project, and the wedding of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Northern New England's Decay.

An interesting discussion is progressing among the scientists of New Hampshire as to whether the destruction of timber in Northern New England is not largely counterbalanced by the growth on deserted home steads. The number of such farms that have gone to seed is well incredible to one who has not actually seen them. It is not unusual to find whole hamlets which, half a century ago, were inhabited by prosperous Puritan yeomanry, almost entirely deserted and the houses falling into decay. This wholesale abandonment of the agricultural regions has undoubtedly enormously increased the acreage of wood land in certain localities. The general belief is, though, that timber is destroyed faster than it is growing.

Quicksands in Chicago.

An enormous pocket of quicksand has made itself apparent in the vicinity of the new water tunnel shaft on the lake front, Chicago. The ground under the Illinois Central Railroad tracks began to sink, and all the material that could be worked under them for a day and night failed to keep the road up, as it would sink several inches after every train passing. The water tunnel shaft is no about seventy feet deep and a dozen feet in diameter. Enough dirt has been already taken out to fill several such holes, but no progress is being made. The sinking process has not yet extended west of the shaft, but should it go west for any distance several large and costly buildings would probably suffer, including the new auditorium building.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has decided to favorably report a bill to repeal the Act preventing Confederate holding positions in the army or navy.

A telegraph operator named J. I. Ryan, at Portland, Oregon, got out year in the penitentiary for swindling a Chinaman out of \$100 entrusted him to send by telegraph.

Jesse Waddel was fined \$50 for contempt at Sacramento, for approaching Judge Armstrong and asking him to be merciful in sentencing Moll Jones, convicted of petty larceny.

A single scull race of three miles for \$2,000 a side will take place at San Francisco Bay, March 18th, between Henry Peterson of that city and William O'Connor of Toronto.

After thirteen years litigation Albany estate has realized 85 cents apiece to the heirs. The lawyers' agency, about \$11,000 each.

Rival American laundries at Springfield, Ill., are washing collars at cuffs at the rate of one cent and shirt two cents each, but the Chinamen refuse to cut their prices according